

of the Minority's recommendations, "to ignore the existing machinery in dealing with the poorer classes." The believer in the Minority Report will not be expected to agree with the main line of the book, though even he will find much to be grateful for in so succinct and up-to-date a statement of the Majority's point of view in general, and for many of the suggestions as to the treatment of children, of widows with children and the industrially incompetent, in particular.

Those on the other hand who take a more detached view of this historic controversy may well agree with his fundamental principle, that "the wages of the working man ought to be sufficient to enable him to make proper provision for the welfare of his family, for his own old age, and for times of sickness" (236). Before, however, assenting to the suggestion that the greater part of recent legislation for the benefit of old-age, for school hygiene and National Insurance is in reality a system of "State doles," they will ask for a more discriminating analysis of the present industrial situation. Granted the validity of the above ideal, what are the main sources from which the wages may be increased to enable us to realise it? What is the relation between the actual and what we might call the real wages of labour, which include free education, cheap tram fares, etc.? What hope is there in the near future of the requisite advance? And what in the meantime is the least "doleful" method of assisting the labourer to this larger share of direct civic responsibility? In view of these questions which ought to concern one who holds that poverty is the result of the defects of our industrial system more than, to judge from this book, they seem to do, is there not something to be said for the policy which was the kernel of truth in the proposals of the Minority Report, viz., that before we set about reorganising the Poor Law authority on a large scale, we should do what is possible by school medical inspection, improved industrial training, unemployment and sickness insurance, improvement of workshop conditions, enforcement of minimum wage, to reduce the problem of poverty to its real dimensions? It must seem to many, besides the present writer, far too early to dismiss the greater part of these efforts as merely disguised "assistance," and the new system of taxation which has been devised, not, of course, by the present Chancellor alone, to find the means for constructive social reform, as a mere "rake's progress."

J. H. MUIRHEAD.

Malinowski, B., Ph.D. *The Family Among the Australian Aborigines.*

London. University of London Press; 1913; price 6s. net; pp. 326. FEW wild races have been more extensively and closely studied than the Australian Aborigines, yet the accounts rendered are mutually inconsistent and contradictory to an extraordinary degree. This is particularly unfortunate, since these natives are so valuable a document for the study of social evolution. Dr. Malinowski, in this valuable monograph, collates and analyses the whole literature of the subject, and has succeeded in producing order out of chaos. His aim is to arrive at the actual existing state of society. To carry it out he has followed the excellent methods of historical analysis and interpretation of evidence instituted by Langlois and Seignobos, and has avoided the temptation (responsible for much of the inconsistency of the records) to allow theory as to origins to colour presentation of facts.

Taking the much-vexed question of "group-marriage" as an example, we find the author's analysis inevitably long but very judicious. He arrives at what is probably the true state of affairs, viz., that individual marriage exists and is the fundamental element, but that social interests have developed or allowed a certain amount of sexual communism, which is a very different thing. It is just the same in the economic sphere, every individual has a right to take toll from this or that individual. The author rightly insists that the sexual relation is not the whole of marriage, and he points out that the "group-marriage"

system is entirely sexual. As regards kinship, the view that the Central Australians ignore the part played by the father in procreation is accepted too readily by the author. Mr. Walter Heape's criticism of this view seems to be final, viz., that for certain reasons (analogous to those which produced the idea of the Immaculate Conception) the Australians have *intentionally* ignored what they really knew very well. An excellent feature of the author's study is that he takes into account the facts of daily life, the emotional side of family relations, and the magico-religious ideas about kinship and so forth. He quotes his documents at full length, an excellent practice. The fascinating subject of Australian family organisation, so difficult to follow in the multifarious literature, is here presented in a most readable and well-digested form, and this one volume gives the student the whole of the subject. It is indispensable to sociologists. Eugenists will find its data and inferences very valuable for a study of the connexion between the morphology of the family and the welfare of the race.

A. E. CRAWLEY.

Greenwood, ARTHUR. *The Health and Physique of School Children.* London. P. S. King and Son, 1913 (for the Ratan Tata Foundation); price 1s. net; pp. xv. + 96.

THIS volume contains an account of an investigation commenced in the Economics Department of Huddersfield Technical College by Mr. George H. Woods, F.S.S., and completed by Mr. Greenwood, the head of the department. It is based on the records contained in the annual reports of school medical officers who give averages of the height and weight of the children under their supervision, arranged according to age. These records have been accumulating since the passage of the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act of 1907, and a statistical summary of a considerable proportion of them, such as is contained in the volume under review, should receive a hearty welcome, particularly from those who are in a position to realise the large amount of labour involved in its preparation. The number of children dealt with exceeds 800,000, so that it may be concluded that the general results obtained are based on sufficient data to be reliable. A system of index numbers is employed for the purpose of making comparisons between different districts with regard to the physical development of their children. These numbers are arranged in four series. Boys' height, boys' weight, girls' height, and girls' weight are calculated for each age by dividing the average measurement at that age for the group dealt with by the corresponding average for the whole of England and Wales and multiplying by 100. To make this process clearer we will take a particular case. Suppose the average weight of seven-year-old girls in Berkshire is 47·9 lbs.; in the whole of England and Wales it is 46·6 lbs. Therefore the index number for the weight of seven-year-old girls in Berkshire is $100 \times 47.9 \text{ lbs.} \div 46.6 \text{ lbs.}$, or 102·8. Having calculated the index number for each age the general index number for the group or district can be obtained by taking the average of all ages. This process facilitates comparison between different districts.

Applying the method just described to the task of comparing the effects of town or country life we obtain the following table:—

	Index Numbers.			
	Boys' Height.	Boys' Weight.	Girls' Height.	Girls' Weight.
County council (rural areas) ...	101·4	103·3	101·6	103·1
County council (urban areas), i.e., small towns ...	100·2	100·5	100·6	100·8
Manufacturing towns ...	98·7	97·9	98·2	97·0

This table shows that elementary school children are on the whole better developed physically in the country than in small towns, and in